

# The Circuit Writer



NEWSLETTER OF THE HISTORICAL AND ARCHIVAL  
SOCIETY ++ Northern New Jersey Conference  
United Methodist Church

Winter / Spring 1988

## PRESERVING YOUR LOCAL CHURCH RECORDS

Your local congregation has records on membership, financial, program, and organization which provide an invaluable account of the history of your church. These records are important enough to preserve for future generations.

We would be glad to include originals or copies of your church records in our conference archival collection. You may deliver them to the United Methodist Archives Center at Drew University any business day between nine a.m. and four p.m. Please label them clearly "Northern New Jersey Conference Collection."

The Archives Collection of the Northern N. J. Conference contains material from nearly everyone of our current conference churches and most of our merged or disbanded congregations. These records are stored in the modern facilities of the United Methodist Archives Center at Drew University, the world's largest collection of Methodist materials. State of the art fireproofing, storage, and computer cataloguing insure that all material will be preserved and accessible for years to come. Microfilming is also available. We are fortunate to have this facility available to our N.N.J. Conference.

For further information on preserving local church records, contact Conference Archivist Robert Blackwell at 482-9842 or Historical Society President William Noll at 239-5762.

## HISTORICAL DISPLAYS

When visiting in the Madison area, be sure to stop by the United Methodist Archives Center to see the latest displays in the museum area. Upcoming exhibits in our Northern New Jersey Conference display cabinet include Baptism (through February), Sunday School (March through May), and the 250th anniversary of Aldersgate (May through August).

For future displays, we are looking to add to our collection of post cards, note cards, Christmas cards, stationery, church plates and other items with photographs or sketches of church buildings.

## ANNUAL MEETING

We are pleased to announce that our Annual Meeting will be held at the Waterloo United Methodist Church at Historic Waterloo Village.

April 23, 1988, Tour 10:00 a.m. - Lunch at noon - Program 1:15 p.m.

"Methodism and Waterloo" will be depicting scenes from history.

Cost is \$8.50 for registration, admission to village, tour and luncheon.

Please register no later than April 10. Return registrations to: Verona United Methodist Church 26 Montrose Ave., Verona, N.J. 07044

We enclose a flyer and registration form.

1988 Historical Society Membership dues of \$10.00 is due. The membership will include the current copy of our latest publication: Visiting the Past, Present, and Future by William Noll.

Life memberships are available.

#### CELEBRATING "HERITAGE SUNDAY" and JOHN WESLEY'S ALDERSGATE EXPERIENCE

250 years ago, on May 24th, 1938, John Wesley visited a Moravian prayer meeting on Aldersgate Street in London. Wesley had been struggling within himself as to the certainty of his own faith in Jesus Christ, and was profoundly unsatisfied with his efforts to lead a sinless, "Christian" life. That night, he reports in his diary, "I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me, that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Because of the profound effect this experience had on John Wesley's life, May 24th is commonly celebrated as the birthday of the worldwide Methodist movement.

Several resources are available for your congregation's celebration of this anniversary, either on "Heritage Sunday" (April 24th) or some other suitable Sunday. These resources are available through the offices of the Commission on Archives and History, Post Office Box 127, Madison, N.J. 07940. You may also visit the Commission at the Archives Center on the Campus of Drew University, or call 201 822-2787.

John Wesley by Maldwyn Edwards. 22 page pamphlet; one of a series of biographies of Methodist leaders. 50¢ each: \$5.00 per dozen.

Celebrating Aldersgate. A brand new resource for observing Aldersgate in a local congregation. 64 pages. \$4.00

Heritage Sunday leaflet. Themes and suggestions for observance. Single copy free. Additional 10¢.

Services and Resources for Worship on Historic Occasions. 1979. \$1.50.

Methodist Bicentennial Planbook. Written for 1984 celebration of American Methodism's 200th Anniversary, but contains useful material. Free

There are also shipping and handling charges: up to \$5.00 add \$1.00. \$5.01 to \$10.00 add 15%. \$10.01 to \$25.00, add 10%. Over \$25.00 add 5%.

#### "VISITING THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE"

This year's historical society publication is a guided tour of historic United Methodist congregations in the Northern New Jersey Conference.

Three tours follow three of Bishop Francis Asbury's many visits to this area between 1798 and 1813. Additional stops are suggested at other communities visited by Asbury, at historic ethnic congregations, and at other important United Methodist colleges, camp-grounds and centers.

This book, written by Historical Society President William Noll, also includes maps and photographs and is given free to every 1988 dues-paying member of the Historical and Archival Society of the Northern New Jersey Conference.

Anticipated publication date is May 1988.

# *Northern N. J. Historical & Archival Society*

## *Annual Meeting*



Waterloo  
U.M. Church

*Saturday*

April 23,  
1988

### *in Historic Waterloo Village*

~ Registration and Tours of Village begin at 10:00 a.m.

~ Picnic Style Luncheon -- 12:00 Noon

~ At 1:15 p.m. Brief Society Business Meeting    \*\* Presentation of  
Life Membership Certificates  
\*\* Election of Officers for  
1988-1992.

~ Afternoon Program: "METHODISM AND WATERLOO"  
Five Skits depicting scenes from the history of  
United Methodism and Waterloo Village.

Cost for REGISTRATION, ADMISSION TO THE HISTORIC VILLAGE, TOUR, AND  
LUNCHEON      \$6.00

Please register for Annual Meeting no later than APRIL 10.  
Return registrations to : Verona United Methodist Church  
26 Montrose Avenue,  
Verona, N.J. 07044

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Registration form.      Historians, Pastors, and those who have an  
interest in the history of our church.

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| _____          | Registrations @ \$6.00 _____ |
| name (names)   |                              |
| _____          | Annual Dues @ \$10.00 _____  |
| Name of Church |                              |
|                | Total Enclosed _____         |

# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## CHARTER MEMBERSHIP YEAR - 1988

The General Commission on Archives and History is pleased to announce the establishment of The Historical Society of The United Methodist Church. The plan for the Society was adopted at the Commission Annual Meeting September 20, 1987. Charter membership is now open through December 31, 1988.

The charter membership drive for the Society is geared to build upon the celebration of Heritage Sunday and the observance of the 250th Anniversary of John Wesley's experience at Aldersgate. We see the event of General Conference and the beginning of the new quadrennium as a good time to remember the past and learn from it as a charter member of the new Historical Society.

Charter membership is \$16.00 (outside the USA - \$18.00 because of postage rates). The first year fee will cover the balance of 1988 and all of 1989!

Charter members will receive a certificate of membership as well as a wallet-size membership card. After January 1, 1989, there will be the small card only.

Members of the Historical Society will receive these benefits:

- a. Linkage with others who care about our history and heritage, and an opportunity to be informed and involved in preserving and telling our story as United Methodist Christians.
- b. Subscription to METHODIST HISTORY (Quarterly Journal).
- c. Subscription to THE HISTORIAN'S DIGEST (Society Newsletter).
- d. 10% Discount on Commission and Society publications.
- e. Reduced registration fee for Historical Convocations and annual meeting programs.
- f. Adjustment in genealogical and research fees.
- g. Membership in one of the four sections of the Society: Local Church, Commissions and Historical Societies, Education and Research, or Genealogy

Until the organizational meeting of the Historical Society in July, 1989, the History Committee of the General Commission is the organizing committee to implement the plan and make such other decisions as necessary. The Committee will also serve as the first nominating committee and present a slate of officers.

The Society has a solid foundation in the earlier societies of its antecedent bodies. The first meeting of the Historical Society of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ was held May 4, 1885 in Dayton, Ohio. The first meeting of the Historical Society of the United Evangelical Church was held March 12, 1907 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and became the parent Historical Society of The Evangelical Church in 1922. In 1946, the Historical Society of the Evangelical United Brethren Church succeeded the societies of the two former denominations. The Association of Methodist Historical Societies was organized in May, 1923 in Baltimore, with its first annual meeting December 10, 1925 in Philadelphia.

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#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

##### Charter Membership Application

I wish to join the Society. Enclosed find my check for \$16.00 (\$18.00 outside USA). I understand my membership begins immediately and continues through December 31, 1989.

My Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please give your name as you wish it to appear on mail and membership lists.)

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

My Choice of Sectional Membership (Choose one only):

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Church History | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissions and Historical Societies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Research               |

Please make check payable to: HISTORICAL SOCIETY, and mail with this membership application to: HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P. O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940.